

U.S. set to churn out Kennedy halves again

By Roger Boye

In a surprising switch of plans, Uncle Sam apparently will make 1982-dated Kennedy half dollars for circulation.

Early this year, Treasury Department chiefs had suspended Kennedy half dollar production [except for proof specimens] due to stockpiles of the little-used coins in bank vaults. But the Federal Reserve has told United States Mint officials that supplies are beginning to run low.

Government machines may churn out as many as 25 million 1982 halves starting this month, more than enough to satisfy collector demand, reports the hobby newspaper Numismatic News.

By the way, mint bosses have no plans to resurrect production of the Susan B. Anthony dollar. Many millions of these coins still are in storage, scorned by merchants and consumers.

● If you receive \$1 bills in change with faded back sides, don't despair; your cash is genuine.

Several weeks ago government workers printed millions of \$1 bills using a new mixture of quick-drying ink on the reverse side. As the money gradually circulated, bureaucrats noticed that the back-side designs took on a "washed-out

appearance."

The bills affected are series 1981 Federal Reserve notes, most with back-side "check numbers" from 2,400 to 2,500, according to currency dealer Chuck O'Donnell. The tiny check numbers are located just below the letter "E" in the large word "ONE."

Experts say the faded bills are much too common to command special values in the collector market. Meanwhile, workers have changed the ink mixture again, once more printing bills with healthy-looking back sides.

● Publishers of hobby newspapers are suffering from the effects of the ongoing coin market slump.

Krause Publications of Iola, Wis., a giant in the field, has laid off or fired 11 of its 125-person staff. Included was an editor of Numismatic News, one of the nation's two weekly hobby newspapers, and the advertising manager of World Coin News.

Coin World, the other weekly newspaper produced in Sidney, Ohio, has shrunk in size because of less advertising. Recent issues have contained from 80 to 96 pages, down substantially from the 140-plus page tomes common during much of 1980 and 1981.

● Twenty-one coin dealers will sell their wares at the second annual show and bourse of the Oak Forest Coin Club on Oct. 17. Hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 5000 W. 127th St., Alsip. Admission is free.